NSA Community Gold Standard Technical Guidance:
Manageable Network Plan

The Problem

Have you discovered that your network is insecure? Are your network administrators always running around putting out fires? Does it seem to be impossible to get anything implemented or fixed on your network?

If so, your network may be unmanageable. Despite what vendors may claim, network management and security involves more than just throwing the latest and greatest product on your network. Can your admins squeeze the time out of their daily firefighting to install, configure, and manage yet another system? Will the product be able to access all the machines on your network? Do you even know where all the machines on your network are?

An unmanageable network is insecure!

Having a manageable network will save you headaches, time, and money. Making your network manageable will go a long way towards solving most of your security issues.

The Plan

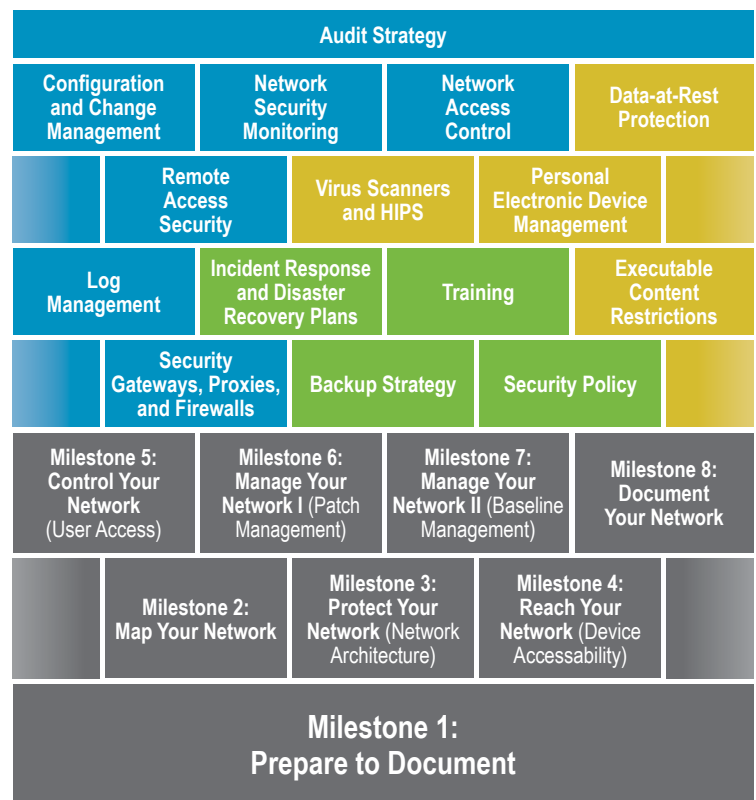*The Manageable Network Plan can help!*

Networks often become unmanageable and rapidly get out of control. The Manageable Network Plan (MNP) is a series of milestones to take an unmanageable and insecure network and make it manageable, more defensible, and more secure. The MNP provides overall direction, offers suggestions, calls out crucial security tips, and gives references to books, Web resources, and tools. Each MNP milestone has a "To Do" list, along with documentation requirements, points to consider, and ongoing tasks.

The MNP also includes details on suggested follow-up tasks to make your network more secure. But remember, getting your network manageable is the first step! If your network is not manageable, or only barely manageable, it will be very difficult for you to fully implement any security measures. Once your network is manageable, you will be able to consider and implement security measures much more efficiently and effectively!

The Manageable Network Plan

A manageable network is more secure, saves money, and frees up time!

- Ease network management
- Safeguard operations
- Stop unauthorized access
- Protect against malware
- Prevent data loss
- Ensure availability

Request a copy of the Manageable Network Plan:
manageable@nsa.gov

Or download it from:
www.nsa.gov/ia/mitigation_guidance

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